CLAIMS:

1. A method for treatment or prophylaxis of an inflammatory disease condition in a patient mediated by excess inflammatory cytokine production and/or abnormal sensitivity of the patient to one or more inflammatory cytokines, said cytokines being selected from the group consisting of IFN-γ and IL-6, which method comprises administering to the patient an effective amount of stressed mammalian blood cells wherein said stressed mammalian blood cells have been extracorporeally subjected to at least one stressor selected from oxidative conditions and ultraviolet radiation.

2. A method for treatment or prophylaxis of an inflammatory disease condition in a patient mediated by excess IL-6 production and/or abnormal sensitivity of the patient to IL-6, which method comprises administering to the patient an effective amount of stressed mammalian blood cells wherein said stressed mammalian blood cells have been extracorporeally subjected to at least one stressor selected from oxidative conditions and ultraviolet radiation.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the disease condition is chronic fatigue syndrome.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the stressed mammalian blood cells have been extracorporeally subjected to both oxidative conditions and ultraviolet radiation simultaneously.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the stressed mammalian blood cells have additionally been extracorporeally subjected to heat stress simultaneously with subjection to both oxidative conditions and ultraviolet radiation.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the oxidative conditions comprise bubbling a gaseous mixture of medical grade oxygen and ozone through the blood, for a period of from about 0.5 minutes to about 60 minutes.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the gaseous mixture has an ozone content of from about 0.1 to about100 μg/ml.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the UV stressor is UV-C radiation.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the temperature stressor is a temperature in the range from about 40 to about 55°C.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the stressed mammalian blood cells comprise a volume of whole blood of from about 0.1 to about 400 mls.

11. A process of decreasing the expression of one or more of the inflammatory cytokines IFN-γ and IL-6 from cells in a mammalian patient, which comprises administering to the patient an effective amount of stressed mammalian blood cells, said stressed cells having been extracorporeally subjected to at least one stressor selected from oxidative stress and ultraviolet radiation.